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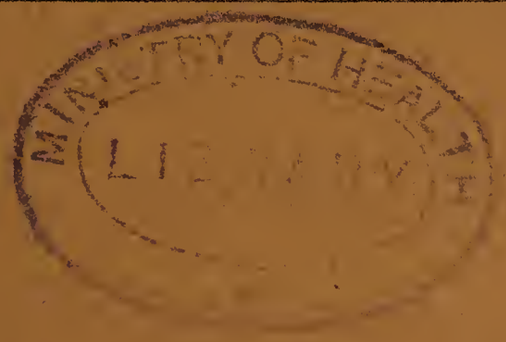

RIPPONDEN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

FOR 1952.

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FOR 1952.

ELLAND :
M. Pilling & Sons, Ltd., Printers, The Cross.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Ripponden U.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health :
J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :
G. A. WILTHEW, M.B., B.S., B.Sc. (Resigned 1.6.52).

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :
J. SHARPLES, C.S.I., A.I.S.E., F.A.B.S.S.

West Riding County Council :

Preventive Medical Services : Health Division 19.

Staff with duties in the Ripponden district.

Divisional Medical Officer : as above (M.O.H.).

Deputy Divisional Medical Officer : as above Deputy M.O.H.).

Assistant County Medical Officer and Medical Officer for Ripponden Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic :
ALICE SEELIG, M.D.

School Dental Officer :
Vacant.

Health Visitor :
M. O. FORRESTER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor :
B. G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.

Mental Health Social Worker :
E. C. WROE, S.R.N., R.M.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Midwife :
M. RICHARDSON, S.R.N., C.M.B. (Resigned 19.4.52).

A. G. REID, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Queen's Nurse). (Commenced 20.4.52).

Home Nurse :
A. HOWARTH, S.R.N., S.C.M. (From 31.8.52).
K. BOTTOMLEY, S.R.N. (From 1.9.52).

Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee :

Consultant Staff :

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon :
W. O. LODGE, M.D., F.I.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Chest Physician :
BERTRAM MANN, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Orthopaedic Surgeon :
G. HYMAN, M.B., F.R.C.S.

Ophthalmic Surgeon :
R. W. GREATOREX, M.B., Ch.B.

Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre,

Todmorden.

October, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the sixth Annual Report since the inception of the scheme of Divisional Health Administration. I must crave your indulgence for the late appearance of this report. This is due to illness and shortage of medical staff and also to the dislocation of the Department's routine duties by the Todmorden smallpox outbreak earlier in the year.

Under the Divisional Health scheme your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Council's local health services and has similar functions in the Borough of Todmorden, the Urban Districts of Sowerby Bridge and Hebden Royd, and the Rural District of Hepton. The scheme has led to a closer integration of local authority health services.

The vital statistics for the year show a considerable rise in the birth rate to 16.1 per 1,000 population. the highest figure for several years. Low birth rates have for long been a characteristic feature of Ripponden and neighbouring districts and this sudden rise merits speculation as to whether we are to see a reversal of the trend. My own opinion is, however, that this is likely to be but a temporary increase.

The death rate is steady at 13.2 per 1,000 but it is noteworthy that 18 of the 69 deaths (approximately 1 in 4) were attributed to cancer. This exceptionally high proportion is partly explained by the increased proportion of elderly persons in the population. The triumphs in other fields of preventive and curative medicine have enabled more and more people to survive to an age where the risk of cancer is much greater. Whether this is the complete explanation cannot be judged from the limited statistics available.

A more cheerful picture is presented by the tuberculosis statistics. There were no deaths from this disease during the year and only two new cases were notified. The improved social and economic conditions enjoyed by the greater part of the population during the past decade or so, allied with better facilities for early diagnosis and more effective treatment, are responsible for this welcome improvement.

The only death from infectious disease was the result of whooping-cough, a reminder that this has for several years been the most crippling of the common infectious diseases. A reliable vaccine is fortunately now available for infants up to the age of four years under the County Council's immunisation scheme and it is hoped that the widespread use of the vaccine will lead to a noticeable reduction in both the incidence and severity of this distressing illness.

The continued absence in Ripponden of any serious enteric disease is remarkable in the light of the primitive sanitary facilities in so many of the older houses. Over a quarter of the houses in Ripponden are still not connected to sewers. There is a total of no less than 226 privies and tub closets, only five being reconstructed as W.C.'s during the last year in spite of the Council's grant. The disposal of 'nightsoil' from these ancient and insanitary receptacles is not undertaken by the Council and one cannot therefore at all times guarantee the absence of any contamination of the private water supplies which serve over 500 houses. The charmed existence—so far—of the inhabitants of these houses can only be due to the absence of any enteric disease carriers in the neighbourhood. Should a carrier, say of paratyphoid fever, enter the district however, a serious outbreak of disease would be possible.

This is, of course, only one of a number of serious problems associated with housing which confront the Council at the present time. Since the war commendable efforts have been made to improve housing conditions but these have so far concentrated (quite justifiably) on the erection of new houses. A stage has now been reached when attention also needs to be focussed on the deteriorating condition of so many of the older houses. New legislation to enable Housing authorities to take more effective action in this direction is eagerly awaited.

In conclusion I wish to thank the members of the Council for their kindness, patience and co-operation, and to thank Mr. Sharples, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, for his kindness and efforts to give me the sanitary circumstances of the area, and indeed to all your officials with whom I made contacts personal and official.

I have the honour to be Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION 1.

Vital Statistics.

STATISTICS.

Area—13,289 acres.

Population—Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population, mid. 1952—5,222.

Census 1951—5,213.

Number of dwelling-houses—1,903.

Rateable Value—£33,741.

Product of a penny rate—£134 10s. 0d.

Summary of Vital Statistics.

	Total	M	F	
Live Births—				
Legitimate	79	37	42	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population **16.1**
Illegitimate	5	2	3	
Still Births—				
Legitimate	2	1	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births **23.3.**
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
All Deaths	69	39	30	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population **13.2.**
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—				
Legitimate	3	—	3	Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births) **35.7.**
Illegitimate	—	—	—	

Causes of Death in Ripponden U.D.

	Cause of Death.	1952. M.	F.
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	—	—
4	Diphtheria	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	—	1
6	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8	Measles	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	1
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4
13	Malignant, neoplasm, uterus	—	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	5	4
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16	Diabetes	—	—
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	3
18	Coronary disease, angina	7	5
19	Hypertension with heart disease	—	—
20	Other heart disease	13	4
21	Other circulatory disease	1	2
22	Influenza	—	—
23	Pneumonia	1	2
24	Bronchitis	1	—
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31	Congenital malformation	—	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	1
33	Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
34	All other accidents	2	—
35	Suicide	—	—
36	Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	Total, all causes ...	39	30

Principal Vital Statistics for the year 1952. Based on the Registrar-General's Figures.

	Rippenden Urban District	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (Prov. figures).
BIRTH RATE—(per 1,000 estimated population)	16.1	15.3	15.4	15.3
DEATH RATES—(All per 1,000 estimated population) All causes	13.2	12.1	11.5	11.3
Infective and parasitic diseases*	0.19	0.07	0.07	* *
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	Nil	0.17	0.16	0.21
Other forms of tuberculosis	Nil	0.03	0.03	0.03
Respiratory diseases‡ (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	0.77	1.21	1.15	* *
Cancer	3.45	2.02	1.92	1.99
Heart and circulatory diseases§	6.13	4.66	4.35	* *
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1.53	1.88	1.74	* *
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births	35.7	30.1	30.0	27.6
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Deaths of Mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still-births)	Nil	0.88	0.80	0.72

*Combined death rate from syphilitic diseases, acute poliomyelitis, meningococcal infections, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, and other infective and parasitic diseases.

‡Combined death rate from influenza, bronchitis, pneumonia, and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system.

§Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system.

* * Figures not available.

Principal Vital Statistics for the year 1952. Based on the Registrar-General's Figures.

Comparisons with neighbouring districts in County Health Division 19.	Rippon-den U.D.	Tod-morden B.	Hebden Royd U.D.	Sowerby Bridge U.D.	Hepton R.D.
BIRTH RATE—(per 1,000 estimated population)	16.1	13.4	11.8	13.1	14.4
DEATH RATES—(All per 1,000 estimated population) All causes	13.2	14.3	17.0	14.8	12.5
Infective and parasitic diseases*	0.19	Nil	Nil	0.05	0.24
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	Nil	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.24
Other forms of tuberculosis	Nil	0.05	Nil	0.05	Nil
Respiratory diseases‡ (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	0.77	1.17	1.78	1.02	2.44
Cancer	3.45	2.13	2.38	2.25	1.71
Heart and circulatory diseases§	6.13	5.86	7.63	6.86	3.91
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1.53	2.56	3.07	1.71	2.44
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births	35.7	27.8	16.8	16.3	Nil
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Deaths of Mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still-births)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

*Combined death rate from syphilitic diseases, acute poliomyelitis, meningococcal infections, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, and other infective and parasitic diseases.

‡Combined death rate from influenza, bronchitis, pneumonia, and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system.

§Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system.

SECTION II.

General Provision of Health Services.

A. Hospitals.

There is no hospital in Ripponden. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred as a rule to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, Royal Halifax Infirmary, St. John's Hospital (for aged and chronic sick), Shelf Sanatorium, Northowram Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Todmorden Fielden Hospital (for long stay medical cases in children), and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital (for mental defectives).

Maternity beds are available both at Halifax General Hospital and Royal Infirmary. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special hospitals (e.g. Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required ; they are situated in various parts of the so-called " Leeds Hospital Region " which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

B. Ambulance Facilities.

The County Ambulance Service (Divisional Depot at Brighouse—telephone Brighouse 840) covers this district. Arrangements also exist with the Halifax County Borough Health Department for the use of their ambulances for the transfer of patient to and from the hospitals in Halifax.

C. Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford.

D. Issue of Anti-toxin, etc.

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Halifax Isolation Hospital and the Halifax General Hospital for issue to medical practitioners requiring it.

By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board supplies of tetanus anti-toxin are also kept at the Divisional Health Office, The Medical Centre, Todmorden, for the use of local medical practitioners in the Division. A supply of reagents for diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation is also available free of charge to private practitioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's schemes of immunisation.

SECTION III.

W.R.C.C. PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES.

A. Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Zion Congregational Sunday School, Ripponden, every Tuesday afternoon, and is attended by Dr. A. Seelig and the Health Visitor. An Ante-Natal Clinic similarly staffed is held in the early afternoon of the first Tuesday in every month. A School Clinic staffed by the Health Visitor is held each Tuesday morning.

B. Care of Mothers and Young Children.

Ripponden Ante Natal Clinic.

Number of expectant mothers attending during the year	10
Total number of attendances	45

Ripponden Child Welfare Centre.

Number of children attending during the year	160
Total number of attendances	1222

Home Visiting of Infants.

Total number of births to Ripponden mothers	86
Number of first visits to children under 1 year	86
Total number of visits to children under 1 year ...	442
Total number of visits to children aged 1—5 years ...	711

Day Nursery Accommodation.

The nearest Day Nursery to which Ripponden children may be admitted is at Sowerby Bridge, priority for admission being granted according to the following categories :—

(a) The young child whose mother is ill or having a baby.

(b) The illegitimate child whose mother is seeking work.

(c) Children of parents who cannot find suitable homes or are living in overcrowded and/or insanitary dwellings.

(d) The young child of the widow who must educate and support the family unassisted, and also the young child of the mother whose husband is ill.

Where vacancies still remain after the above categories have been dealt with priority is then given to mothers engaged in the textile or armament industries.

Care of Premature Infants.

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them.

Provision of Maternity Outfits.

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

C. Professional Nursing in the Home.

The West Riding County Council is resposible for both home nursing and midwifery in this area. There is one full-time Home Nurse and one full-time Midwife working in Ripponden and neighbouring parts of the Sowerby Bridge U.D.

Midwifery Service.

Number of home confinements	24
Number of hospital confinements	62

Analgesia.

The Ripponden Midwife is trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and is provided with the necessary equipment. Analgesia is available to all mothers desiring it subject to satisfactory medical examination by a doctor. It is hoped that more mothers will make use of this valuable service.

D. Health Visitor.

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope for this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children, of persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health Visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

E. Home Helps.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, the County Council provide domestic help for cases coming within the following classifications :—

(1) Where there is illness in the home.

(2) For an expectant mother.

(3) For a confinement in the home.

(4) Where needed because of a mentally defective person in the home.

(5) Where needed because of illness or infirmity in the aged

(6) Where there are children of, or under, school age and the mother is ill or otherwise not able to care for them.

Fourteen cases were attended in Ripponden during 1952 and were divided into the following categories : Maternity 6, aged persons 6, and illness 2. The total number of hours worked by home helps was 2,339 as compared with 3,200 in 1951.

F. Care and after care.

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defect, venereal disease, and other illnesses.

G. School Health Service.

Number of schools in district	4
Number of children attending at end of 1952	405
Number of children examined at these schools during 1952	39

This figure being made up as follows :—

Routine examinations	27
Re-examinations	12
Number of above children referred for treatment	4

H. Immunisation and Vaccination.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination against smallpox may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor.

Number of Children in Ripponden who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time to 31.12.52.

Age at 31/12/52	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	Total Under 15
No. immun.	31	27	37	34	12	617	229	977

Estimated mid-year population under 15 years—1,226.

Number of Children in Ripponden who completed a full course of immunisation, 1952.

Began and completed injections 1952 :—

0-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
31	13	3	4	3	7	—	2	2	4	4	—	—	—	—

Total 73

Immunised in previous years, re-treated 1952 :—

0-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
—	—	—	—	1	14	22	14	3	16	16	11	6	4	—

Total 107.

Vaccination.

During the year records were received of the vaccination against smallpox of 35 persons living in the Ripponden area. Of this number 19 were infants under the age of one year.

SECTION IV.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Summary of Notifications received in the year 1952.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.
Scarlet Fever	14
Whooping cough	25
Acute poliomyelitis	—
Measles	28
Diphtheria	—
Acute pneumonia	6
Dysentery	—
Smallpox	—
Acute encephalitis	—
Enteric or Typhoid fever	—
Paratyphoid fevers	—
Erysipelas	1
Meningococcal infection	—
Food Poisoning	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
Pulmonary tuberculosis	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1
	76

Tuberculosis.

The number of cases notified during 1952 are given in detail in the following table :—

Age Period	New Cases.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	1	—
10—15	—	—	—	—
15—20	1	—	—	—
20—25	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	—	1	—

There were no deaths from tuberculosis during 1952.

SECTION V.

Sanitary Circumstances.

Number of Houses in district 1903

Water Supply.

Source of supply—Springs. Distributed by Ripponden U.D.C.

No. of dwellinghouses on public supply (direct to houses) 1360

No. of dwellinghouses not on public supply 543

The main supply is from the Council's small reservoir which is fed from an underground spring.

Examination of supplies.

Number of examinations made during year :—

(a) Chemical—7. Result—Satisfactory.

(b) Bacteriological—1. Result—Satisfactory.

No supplies have been restricted or closed during the year.

Drainage and Sewage.

Sewer extensions during 1952—Sewer in Workhouse Hill, Barkisland, extended 50 yards.

Details of any portion of district still requiring :—

(a) Sewering—Wall Nook and Krumlin areas.

(b) Improvement of defective sewers—Nil.

Number of houses not connected to sewers 498

Nuisance Inspections.

There were ten nuisances found in 1952 all of which required abatement. Informal notices were served and were complied with in every case.

Closet Accommodation.

No. of privies with open middens	79
No. of Pail or Tub Closets	51
No. of privies with covered middens	96
No. of Water Closets	1522
Waste Water Closets	24
No. of privies reconstructed in 1952 as W.C.'s. ...	2
No. of closets, other than Privies reconstructed during 1952 as W.C.'s	3
No. of **additional** closets provided for old property in 1952 as :—	
(a) W.C's	4
(b) Other	—
No. of closets constructed in 1952 for new houses	
(a) W.C's	12
(b) Other	—
Total number of closets in District	1772
Percentage of closets on water carriage system ...	87.25

Grants are made by the Council for conversion of privies, waste water closets and pails to W.C. system.